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PLOWING ADVICE FOR CZECHOSLOVAK FARMERS

In addition to preserving moisture and destroying weeds and other noxious field offenders, disking also prepares the field for basic cultivation, for the deep fall plowing with a plow which has been equipped with a jointer. Disking not only makes plowing easier, while increasing the desirable effects of deep plowing with a jointer, but it is an absolute necessity in dry years for the actual plowing operation. There were some bitter experiences last year, especially with difficult and mixed soils; that is, plows were damaged while working on plots that had not been disked properly and plowing was shallow and the soil lumpy. Later, after the soil for seeding had been worked with great difficulty,

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it dried out still more. As a number of cooperative workers and tractor drivers have already discovered, a plot of ground which is properly tilled after the harvest makes a firm foundation for achieving and even exceeding the planned per-hectare grain production for the next year.

The government decree relative to a successful harvest and purchasing program depends on the National Committees, JZD (Unified Agricultural Cooperatives), STS (machine-tractor stations), state farms, and even the small and middle farmers for its execution. They should expand basic fodder stocks as fully as possible, by sowing stubble mixture. Although an adequate quantity of stubble mixture seed is available this year, farmers are often reluctant to sow the mixture because they fear a drought. They cannot afford to wait too long for rain, and most farms cannot operate without stubble mixture, for otherwise it would be necessary to feed up the second-crop hay, or else feed hay even now, in the summer.

It is possible to sow stubble mixture safely if it is done as follows: Select the low-lying fields, preferably following a barley crop (grown alone), which leaves the soil in a relatively mellow condition. However, it is of the utmost importance to plow the land to a depth of 14-16 centimeters during the harvest immediately after the cutting. Because the summer this year was so dry, this is especially important if the grain is to grow properly and provide good fodder. If plowing is done with a tractor, a harrow should be attached to the plow and, prior to sowing, the land should be leveled with a roller. It is also necessary to hasten the seeding and then, after the drill has passed over the ground, to harrow in the grain. Proper seeding of stubble mixture will help maintain moisture in the soil for germination purposes, and it will help in securing a sufficient quantity of feed.

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